

Approved at the October 26, 2010 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 28, 2010 – 5:00 p.m.
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Greg Acton, City of Whitefish; Jim Dupont, County Commissioner; Wayne Miller, Board of Health and Alan Ruby, Member at Large. Absent: John Helton, Member at Large and Bill Shaw, City of Columbia Falls.

District Staff present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Jim Chilton and Recording Secretary Deborah Morine.

Attendees: Jerry O'Neil, Bob Morrow and Matt O'Connell.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson reminded the Board members to "Think Green".

3. Comments from public

Jerry O'Neil from Columbia Falls who represents House District 3 (Columbia Falls) questioned why the policy for the Columbia Falls container site has changed. He questioned why it closes earlier and why does it need an attendant. He stated he feels uncomfortable leaving an appliance there now. He said there is a lot of unemployment in the area and people used to be able to salvage and make some money, now there is no salvaging allowed. He questioned if this is a good business decision. He stated that if there is a liability issue involved, he could introduce a House Bill to limit any liability if it would help the county.

Hank Olson thanked Mr. O'Neil for his comments and stated that since the Board doesn't answer public questions directly during this time, he could call Jim or Dave and pose his questions to them for answers and they can explain the Boards decisions.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for August 24, 2010 - **Action Required**

Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of the August 24, 2010 meeting. Greg Acton seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

There are no action items for the September meeting

6. Director's Report

a. Container Site Consolidation Project – Highway 2 East

With assistance from Dan Vincent from the Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA) a meeting was held on September 27th at the Flathead National Forest (FNF) Office in Hungry Horse. Attendees were representatives from FNF, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Glacier National Park, Montana Dept. of Transportation, Burlington Northern – Santa Fe Railroad, Evergreen Disposal, and local citizens. Dan sent out an email to the group asking for assistance in helping locate a possible container site in the Nyack Flats area or in the general vicinity of Nyack.

Staff has also been working with the County Geographic Information System Department to locate parcels of County owned property that may be available for a possible trade. The District utilized this avenue to gain ownership and construct the current container site at Coram. The trade occurred with the FNF for some County property in the North Fork of the Flathead. Staff also has been trying to locate parcels in either private or public ownership in the Nyack area that could be potential suitable to place a new site.

Dave updated the Board and stated they discussed the Boards desire to locate a property in the Nyack Flat area. Other areas of interest are the Red Rock Pit near Essex which will be further investigated. Any new container site would be fenced, gated and controlled.

Other discussions involved whether any new site would be open in the summer time only or year round and how often the site would be serviced.

b. Phase 4A Excavation and 2010 North and East Slope Phase I Landfill Closure Project Public

Work on the excavation and closure project has continued through the month. Noble Excavating is nearing completion of the low permeability layer. The east slope has been substantially completed with the placement of the topsoil layer and the north slope is completed above the main access road. Other project appurtenances are beginning including the installation of concrete headwalls and down-drains.

Excavation work has occurred outside of the original project boundaries due to unsuitable material encountered to be used in the low permeability layer. There are sand lenses throughout the excavation area and this material was hauled to stockpile and not the low perm layer. The engineer allotted for this in the estimated quantity of soil moved in the bid so at this point we don't believe the contract price will be exceeded. However, three change orders have been approved to deal with drainage and unsuitable material issues but the cost of the project with the changes is not estimated to exceed the original contract price.

The project completion date is October 19th, barring further weather delays, and it appears the project will go over the allotted time. The contract calls for liquidated damages of \$1,000/day plus expenses (engineering and CQA costs) if the contractor does not complete the project on time.

c. County Ordinance No. 8

County Ordinance No. 8 requires transporters of solid waste to either the landfill or a container site to contain, cover or otherwise control the load such that no garbage or trash may blow or fall from the vehicle. The ordinance was last amended by the County Commissioners in October, 2006 at the request of the Solid Waste Board. The modifications at that time included increasing the fine from \$5 to \$200 and placed the responsibility of enforcement on law enforcement instead of the District employees in the scale house. The Board last month asked for the ordinance to be placed on the agenda to discuss any modifications they may want to recommend to the County Commissioners.

Our fall ad campaign on the Bee Broadcasting radio stations started in early September. We again are running ads discussing securing your refuse when headed to the landfill or a container site. We also created a new ad on this topic to help get the message out and not be redundant with the same ads.

Discussions included placing public service announcements on billboards along three major highways. Prices range from \$400 - \$500 per month depending on length of rental. Wayne stated that the Health Department could contribute toward the rental fee as littering is a Health issue as well.

The Board would like to see the ads run in the spring/summer months beginning in March. Hank suggested that Mayre Flowers get the schools involved in a contest to create a slogan with the theme of "Don't Trash the Flathead".

d. FCSWD Strategic Plan

Based on our meeting last month with the Consultant preparing the Strategic Plan, they have outlined the following items to add to or update in the Strategic Plan to address the Board's comments/clarifications:

Projections

- ◆ SWT will add some backup references to the State of Montana Department of Commerce data developed by their consultant and accepted by the State, for projections through 2025.
- ◆ Add a discussion about potential saturation of the County and how the projections may be conservative and reference the District's options in the recommendations if the projections are significantly lower than anticipated in the Strategic Plan.

Rail Haul Projections

- ◆ The Rail Haul Alternative will be expanded to discuss loading, intermodal, rail route options to potential landfills and current rail status in Montana.
- ◆ Costing for the rail alternative will be based on Park County's costs for transporting and disposal at the High Plains Landfill (Great Falls).

Recommendations

- ◆ The Engineer will add a discussion on the District's potential alternatives if the expansion property is purchased and the tonnage projections are significantly lower than used in the Strategic Plan or an alternative technology becomes a viable practice for refuse handling.

The above-mentioned items would be added to the Strategic Plan in strike-and-delete, replace pages formatted to facilitate the Board's review.

If Board members have specific comments or edits, even if typographical or grammatical, we would like the Engineer to address these. Please provide copies and we will forward them to the Engineer so that they will be incorporated into the final draft.

e. Refuse Operations

Operations proceeded well for the month. Tonnage/Volumes are shown below:

	<u>August</u>
Total MSW to landfill	8,829.86
Total Appliances Collected	716
Junk Vehicles Collected	9
Truck Trips to Container Sites	471
Refuse tons/trip	7.27

The District landfilled 12.4% less waste in August, 2010 as compared to August, 2009 and our refuse trucks hauled 11.7% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2011 was projected to be \$850,000. Through August, 2010 (17% through the year) we have received \$130,440.75 (15.4% of budget). The gate represents approximately one quarter of the District's revenue stream.

f. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financials with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Greg Acton stated the Strategic recommended the consolidation of container sites and if we are going to back off and not close sites, the plan should be adjusted accordingly. The reduction of the sites was supposed to lead to private enterprise filling the gap. New subdivisions are required to contract private hauling for garbage service.

There were discussions among the Board members about costs of revising the report and whether or not the Board is actually rethinking consolidating the sites. It was concluded that the Plan will be left as is for at least 5 years, then will be revisited to see if it needs revised.

Alan Ruby stated that he has had a few people talk with him about the sites and they questioned why the City of Columbia Falls (who has no city garbage service) has a container site.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.